

Washington, DC -- Congressman Vern Buchanan (FL-13) announced today that the U.S. Postal Service's (USPS) Office of Inspector General (OIG) has agreed to his request for an independent review of the USPS's plans to consolidate mail processing operations at the Manasota Processing and Distribution Center in Tallevast.

"This will ensure an independent review of the proposed consolidation," the congressman said. The USPS announced in March its decision to eliminate 59 local positions and move originating mail processing and distribution operations from the Manasota Processing and Distribution Center (P&DC) to the Tampa P&DC by April 1, 2010.

Buchanan requested the audit to help ensure that no postal workers will unnecessarily lose their jobs or be relocated, that there will be no reduction in service, and that the promised savings are realistic and attainable.

"The community has a lot at stake," said Buchanan. "This audit will help us determine if in fact the consolidation will save money and improve service. If not, it shouldn't happen."

According to a letter to the Congressman from the Assistant Inspector General for Audit, Tammy Whitcomb, the OIG will review the proposed efficiency gains, cost savings, staffing changes, and service implications. Furthermore, they will review the local impact study, public hearing process, stakeholder concerns and public transparency.